

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. to 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A coupling for use in transferring gas in a molten metal device, the coupling including a coupling member that comprises a bore having an opening, the bore for receiving an end of a shaft, the bore having an end distal the opening and an end proximal the opening, wherein the distal end is tapered and is not threaded.

15. (Original) The coupling of claim 14 wherein the proximal end is threaded.

16. (Original) The coupling of claim 15 wherein the threads are course threads.

17. (Original) The coupling of claim 14 that further includes a first coupling member and a passage between the first coupling member and the second coupling member, the passage for transferring gas.

18. (Original) The coupling of claim 14 wherein the coupling is comprised of stainless steel.

19. (Original) The coupling of claim 14 wherein the surface of the distal end of the bore is smooth.

20. (Original) The coupling of claim 14 that further includes a counterweight.

21. (Original) A rotary degasser including: (a) a motor; (b) a motor shaft having a first end and a second end, the first end connected to the motor; (c) a coupling having a first coupling member and a second coupling member, the first coupling member connected to the second end of the motor shaft, the second coupling member comprising a bore having an opening, the bore for receiving an end of a rotor shaft, the bore having an end distal the opening and an end proximal the opening, the distal end being tapered and not threaded; (d) a rotor shaft having a first end and a second end, the first end being received in and connected to the second coupling member; and (e) a rotor connected to the second end of the rotor shaft.

22. (Original) The rotary degasser of claim 21 wherein there is a passage between the first coupling member and the second coupling member, the passage for transferring gas.

23. (Original) The rotary degasser of claim 21 wherein the proximal end of the second coupling member is threaded.

24. (Original) The rotary degasser of claim 23 wherein the threads are course threads.

25. (Original) The rotary degasser of claim 21 wherein the coupling is comprised of stainless steel.
26. (Original) The rotary degasser of claim 21 wherein the distal end of the bore has a smooth surface.
- 27-37. (Cancelled)
38. (New) The coupling of claim 14 wherein the coupling further comprises one or more apertures configured to receive a tool for disconnecting the shaft from the coupling.
39. (New) The rotary degasser of claim 21 wherein the coupling further comprises one or more apertures configured to receive a tool for disconnecting the shaft from the coupling.